



The Secret History (Hackett Classics)

Anthony Kaldellis, Prokopios

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By exposing the perversion, repression, corruption, and injustice at the heart of Justinian's regime, Prokopios' *The Secret History* destroyed forever that emperor's reputation as the great and benevolent ruler of a vast Byzantine state.

Faithfully rendered here in blunt and idiomatic English, Prokopios' tell-all is as shocking today as it was in the sixth century. Kaldellis' substantial Introduction addresses, among other topics, the historical background to *The Secret History*; Prokopios' literary style and major themes; and the relationships between Prokopios, Justinian, and Empress Theodora. Maps, genealogies, a glossary, and a selection of related texts (including excerpts from Prokopios' *Wars and Buildings* and several contemporary documents) enhance and support the reading of this scandalous and suspenseful book.

"By far the most accurate translation now available, with useful supporting documents for teaching, and a comprehensive and enlightening introduction that even experienced Byzantinists will want to read."

—Michael Kulikowski, *University of Tennessee*

"This translation will be especially useful in undergraduate classes because, in the final section, Kaldellis appends translations of related passages from Prokopios's longer *History of the Wars*, from Justinian's legislation, and from other sixth-century primary sources. Students can use these passages to judge for themselves how accurately the Secret History portrayed Justinian's career as well as that of this controversial empress. Summing up: Essential."

—T. S. Miller, Salisbury University, in *CHOICE*

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